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REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 20, 2003 included the following rejections, objections, and comments:

1. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Iwamoto et. al. (US 6,139,940).
2. Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawai et. al. (EP 0 896 883 A1).
3. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable under Kawai et. al.
4. Claims 6, 8-12, 14 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim
5. Claims 13 and 16 were allowed.

In response to these rejections, objections, and comments, and in view of the above Amendments, Applicant provides the following Remarks:

1. Rejection of Claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC §102(a)

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a), as being anticipated by Iwamoto. However, Applicant has canceled Claims 3 and 4. Therefore, Applicant respectively submits that the rejections to Claims 3 and 4 have become moot.

2. Rejection of Claims 5 and 7 under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Kawai. However, Applicant has canceled Claims 5 and 7. Therefore, Applicant respectively submits that the rejection to Claims 5 and 7 have become moot.

3. Rejection of Claims 3 and 4 under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Kawai as applied above to Claims 5 and 7. However, Applicant has canceled Claims 3 and 4. Therefore, Applicant respectively submits that the rejections to Claims 3 and 4 are now moot.

4. Objection to Claims 6, 8-12, 14 and 15

Claims 6, 8-12, 14, and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, it was indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6, 8-11 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of there respective base claims. Applicant respectively submits that these claims had no intervening claim.

Claim 11 depends from Claim 6. Because Claim 6 has been rewritten in an independent form to overcome the objection, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 11 now overcomes the objection.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent Claim 13. Because Claim 13 was allowed, and no Office Action exists for Claim 13. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 14 and 15 do not depend upon a rejected base claim. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 14 and 15 are allowable in the current condition.

5. **Allowability of Claims 13 and 16**

The Office Action contained an indication of allowability of Claims 13 and 16. Applicant would like to express its appreciation for the favorable decision on these claims.

Applicant having addressed all of the rejections, objections, and comments in the latest Office Action, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above Amendments and Remarks. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments submitted herewith do not add new matter to the application. In the event that the Examiner believes that the claims would be allowable with minor changes, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss an Examiner's Amendment.